



In the Claims:

Please add Claims 40-50 as follows:

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40. (new) The method of using a flexible package, the flexible package comprising a package body defining an interior; a zipper closure comprising a first mating profile and a second mating profile extending along a first edge of the package body, the zipper closure providing access to the interior; a slider device operably mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and for disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction, and a tamper-evident structure at least partially encasing the zipper closure; the method comprising:

(a) removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package; and

15 (b) moving the slider device in said second direction to disengage the first and second mating profiles, thereby providing access to the package interior.

41. (new) The method according to claim 40, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

(a) removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness.

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42. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness comprises:

(a) removing the tamper-evident structure at a perforation line.

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43. (new) A method of making a package comprising a package body defining a package interior; a zipper closure comprising a first mating profile and a second mating profile extending along a first edge of the package body, the zipper closure providing access to the interior, a slider device operably mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and for disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction, and a tamper-evident structure at least partially encasing the zipper closure; the method comprising:

15 (a) providing the package body having an interior surface and defining the package interior;

15 (b) attaching the zipper closure to the interior surface of the package body;

15 (c) mounting the slider device onto the zipper closure;

15 (d) forming the tamper-evident structure over the zipper closure and the slider device with the package

20 body by:

20 (i) sealing the package body above the zipper closure;

20 (ii) forming an opening in the tamper-evident structure in which the slider device resides;

25 (iii) providing an area of weakness within the tamper-evident structure.

44. (new) A flexible, reclosable package comprising:

44. (a) first and second panel sections defining an interior;

44. (b) a zipper closure sealed to each of first and second panel sections along a top edge, the zipper closure extending from a first side edge to a second side edge and comprising first and second mating profiles;

5 (c) a slider device constructed and arranged for mounting on the zipper closure and for interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider

10 device is moved in a first direction and disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction; the slider device being operably mounted on the zipper closure; and

15 (d) a first tamper-evident structure disposed at the top edge and encasing a first portion of the zipper closure, the tamper-evident structure having an opening exposing the slider device, the opening defined by, the tamper-evident structure.

45. (new) The package according to claim 44, wherein:

(a) the slider device is positioned within the opening of the first tamper-evident structure.

46. (new) The package according to claim 44, further comprising:

(a) an area of weakness extending along the first tamper-evident structure.

47. (new) The package according to claim 46, wherein:

(a) the area of weakness is a perforation line.

48 48. (new) A method of using a flexible package, the flexible package comprising a package body defining an interior; a zipper closure extending along a first edge of the package body, the zipper closure comprising first and second mating profiles and providing access to the interior; a slider device mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction; and a tamper-evident structure encasing a first portion of the zipper closure, the tamper-evident structure defining an opening that provides access to the slider device; wherein the method comprises:

15 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package; and

(b) moving the slider device in said second direction to disengage the first and second mating profiles, thereby providing access to the package interior.

49. (new) The method according to claim 48, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

5 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness.

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50. (new) The method according to claim 49, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness comprises:

5 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure at a perforation line.
